

transactions. After examining the deeds, many names were eliminated because the land had actually been obtained at a date prior to 1891 and not recorded until that year or later. In addition, the number of names was further reduced after examination of the deeds showed that some owners were mortgagors and not purchasers of their property. Furthermore, some names, which listed no year in the index, were eliminated when a check of the deeds placed the transactions before 1891.<sup>2</sup>

The next step was the examination of the grantor index (those selling property) from 1898 to 1905. The number of blacks with J-Z surnames who (1) bought land between 1891 and 1898 and (2) sold or mortgaged that same property between 1898 and 1905 totaled thirty-five. Close, detailed analysis was made of this set of transactions. This group of African Americans, which included a few females, encompassed a broad spectrum on the socio-economic ladder.<sup>3</sup>

The analysis of the property transactions produced no evidence of property seizure. The investigation did indicate whether property was sold for loss and gain over the seven-year period after 1898. An example of property sold at a loss is the case of Stephen Williams, a laborer, who sold part of lot 4 in Block 137 on June 8, 1899, for \$50. Williams had purchased the tract on March 8, 1895, for \$137, meaning that he lost \$87. An unusual case of property gain is the case of baker Lorenzo D. Kennedy. On August 3, 1891, the baker purchased a portion of lot 1 in Block 196 for \$900. On February 26, 1904, he sold the property for \$3,000, a windfall of \$2,100. This likely reflects the fact

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<sup>2</sup> Index to Real Estate Conveyances, Grantee, 1729-1954, New Hanover County (microfilm), State Archives, Raleigh; Books 6-23, 30, D, and LD-A (microfilm), New Hanover County Deeds, State Archives, Raleigh.

<sup>3</sup> Index to Real Estate Conveyances, Grantor, 1729-1954 (microfilm), New Hanover County Deeds, State Archives, Raleigh; Books 21-46, 55, C, D, LD-A, and P (microfilm), New Hanover County Deeds, State Archives, Raleigh.